

Application Ser. No. 09/911,243
Response to Office Action Mailed August 5, 2004

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-16 (previously cancelled, without prejudice)

17. (currently amended) A device for stretching and preventing breakage in a polymeric film or nonwoven web during stretching comprising:

a first interdigital roller ~~having circumferential grooves;~~

a second interdigital roller ~~having circumferential grooves~~ intersecting the ~~grooves of said~~ first interdigital roller, ~~the intersecting grooves~~ the intersection of said first and second interdigital rollers adapted for interdigitally stretching a length of a polymeric film or nonwoven web along a plurality of lines across its width, a segment of said first roller ~~grooves~~ for receiving a substantially unstretched area of film or web adjacent said lines along its length prior to said intersection ~~of grooves;~~ and

at least one disc for contacting said unstretched area of the film or web prior to said intersection ~~of grooves~~ and said disc for pressing said film area into said segment ~~of grooves~~ of the first interdigital roller without substantially stretching the film or web in said area adjacent said lines along its length during said interdigital stretching by said rollers.

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18. (original) The device of claim 17, further comprising at least one set of interengaging spaced rollers for creating the substantially unstretched area along the length of the film or web.

19. (original) The device of claim 17 further comprising a bar for creating the substantially unstretched area along said length of film or web.

20. (original) The device of claim 17 further comprising a member for creating the substantially unstretched area along said length of film or web selected from the group consisting of a folder, corrugater, furrower, gatherer, creaser, progressive roll former, and overlapper of said film or web.

21. (currently amended) A device for stretching and preventing breakage in a polymeric film or nonwoven web during stretching comprising:
a first interdigital roller ~~having circumferential grooves~~;
a second interdigital roller ~~having circumferential grooves~~
intersecting the ~~grooves of said first interdigital roller, the intersecting grooves~~
the intersection of said first and second interdigital rollers adapted for interdigitally stretching a length of a polymeric film or web along a plurality of lines across its width, at least one segment of said first roller ~~grooves~~ for

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receiving a substantially unstretched area of film or web adjacent said lines along its length prior to said intersection ~~of grooves~~; and

a controller for creating at least one said substantially unstretched area of said film or web for receipt by said segment ~~of grooves~~.

22. (original) The device of claim 21 comprising a plurality of said controllers.

23. (original) The device of claim 21 further comprising a presser for forcing the substantially unstretched film or web area into the first interdigital roller.

24. (original) The device of claim 23, wherein the presser includes at least one rotatable disc for contacting the substantially unstretched film or web area and pressing said area into the first interdigital roller without substantially stretching said area.

25. (original) The device of claim 21, further comprising a member for creating the substantially unstretched film or web area wherein the controller is selected from the group consisting of a folder, corrugater, furrower, gatherer, creaser, progressive roll former, and overlapper of said film or web.

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26. (original) The device of claim 21, wherein the controller
is laterally adjustable.